

References

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Notes and new distribution records of the Quail Plover *Ortyxelos meiffreni*

Britton (1980) gives the distribution of the Quail Plover *Ortyxelos meiffreni* in southeastern Kenya as occurring in Tsavo National Park (East) in all months of the year. Urban *et al.* (1986) give a less specific locality, but confirm its regular presence in southeastern Kenya.

Between March and November 1991 Susan Stolberger and I made 27 sightings of this species from three pairs that appeared resident along a 3-km stretch of road near Kitani, in Tsavo National Park (West) at 3°00S, 37°59E. In April the same year I collected a specimen (to be lodged in the National Museum, Nairobi) in breeding condition in the park 15 km northwest of Kitani. We made a further sighting some 20 km southwest of Kitani in September 1991.

On 9 October 1993 SS and I saw a female crossing a road 23 km from Kuro on the road to Loiboseret in the Tarangire National Park, Tanzania at c. 4°S, 36°E.

All the sightings in Tsavo West and the single observation in Tarangire were on red soil where there was *Aristida* grass in acacia woodland. The sighting southwest of Kitani was in *Acacia-Commiphora* thicket, denser than all the other habitats.

We noticed a very characteristic gait during many of our observations. Reminiscent of the hesitant manner in which a chameleon rocks its body forwards and backwards as it progresses, we dubbed it the 'chameleon walk'. On another occasion my eye was caught by movement under a small *Solanum* bush that initially gave the impression of a leaf moving in a slight wind. On looking closer, we saw that it was a Quail Plover, rocking gently as it stood in a particularly effective exhibition of crypsis.

We also observed a Quail Plover dust bathing. Instead of lowering itself gently into the centre of the 'bath', it stood at the edge and threw itself sideways landing on its

right side in the centre of the 'bath'. It then righted itself and briefly dust-bathed conventionally with much feather-fluffing and scratching. It then stood up, moved to the edge of the 'bath', and again threw itself at the middle, landing on its right side, repeating the process of then righting itself and dust-bathing conventionally.

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Hide and seek: Striped-cheeked Greenbul *Andropadus milanjensis* opportunistically encounters and feeds on a chameleon

Studies indicate that most greenbul species retain mixed diets of invertebrates and fruits although the degree of variation between species appears to be large (e.g., Keith *et al.* 1992, L. Dinesen pers. comm.). A few species of the family Pycnonotidae have also been known to take small lizards, geckos and frogs (e.g., Keith *et al.* 1992, Maclean 1988). There has apparently been no report of the Striped-cheeked Greenbul *Andropadus milanjensis* feeding on vertebrates and it is therefore of interest to document one such case here.

The following observations were made during a survey of the avifauna of Kindoroko Forest Reserve in the North Pare Mountains, Tanzania (Cordeiro in prep.). The area in which the actual observations were made was at 1600 m, about 25 m inside mature montane forest dominated by *Newtonia buchananii* stands.

At 16:05 on 21 July 1993, four Olive Mountain Greenbuls *Phyllastrephus placidus* and one *A. milanjensis* diverged from their mixed feeding party and flew into the canopy of a *Newtonia* tree. *P. placidus* individuals foraged for invertebrates on the bark and amongst the foliage and branches. The *A. milanjensis* followed the party shortly after and flew into the foliage of a hanging climber on the same tree, about 12 m above the ground. At about 16:10 it had begun to glean actively amongst the leaves when it appeared to be surprised by a puffed-up chameleon, c. 4–5 cm long, possibly of the genus *Rhampholeon*. It immediately attacked the reptile with its beak for several seconds, swallowed it whole, and then flew off to join the other greenbuls in the canopy.

Most reports on the feeding ecology of *A. milanjensis* indicate that it has a mixed diet consisting of fruits, seeds, and invertebrates (Belcher 1930, Mackworth-Praed & Grant 1960, Maclean 1988, Dowsett-Lemaire 1988, 1989, Keith *et al.* 1992, L. Dinesen pers. comm.) although Stuart (1983) categorizes it as a frugivore. My observations suggest that this greenbul also feeds opportunistically on larger and more difficult prey.